United Nations E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.2

# Economic and Social Council

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16 February 2000

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**Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**
**Third session**
3-17 March 2000
Item 1 of the provisional agenda*
**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

## Status of documentation for the session

### Note by the Secretary-General

1. By Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/1 and 1979/69 on the control and limitation of documentation and 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council, the Council reiterated that the Secretariat should circulate the relevant documentation in all the working languages six weeks before the opening of the sessions of the Council and its subsidiary organs, and invited the Secretariat to take steps to ensure effective compliance with rule 13, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure of the Council.

2. By resolution 1979/69, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretariat to inform the Council and its subsidiary bodies, in the relevant annotated agenda, which documents had not been issued in accordance with the six-week rule, with a full explanation of the reasons that prevented their circulation.

3. In view of the schedule of the third session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee (3-17 March 2000), the documentation for the session should have been submitted to the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services by 24 December 1999 and circulated by 21 January 2000. The documents not circulated by that date are listed in the annex.

* E/CN.6/2000/PC/1.

00-30394 (E) 220200

# Annex

## Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": status of documentation as at 22 February 1999

| *Agenda item* | *Title or description and symbol of document* | *Date of submission to the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division* | *Date of submission to the Central Planning and Coordination Service* | *Actual or projected date of issue* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (E/CN.6/2000/PC/2) | 19 January 2000 | 20 January 2000 | 28 February 2000 |
| 2 | Note by Secretary-General concerning the comparative report on how different categories of projects and programmes of United Nations organizations include women's interests and gender mainstreaming issues and on resources allocated in this regard (E/CN.6/2000/PC/3) | 22 December 1999 | 3 February 2000 | Issued |
| 2 | Report of the Secretary-General on emerging issues containing additional material on further actions and initiatives for the preparation of the outlook beyond the year 2000 (E/CN.6/2000/PC/4) | 7 February 2000 | 8 February 2000 | 25 February 2000 |

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# Economic and Social Council

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28 February 2000

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**Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**
**Third session**
3-17 March 2000
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
**Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

**Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee**

## Arrangements regarding participation of non-governmental organizations at the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

The Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" recommends to the Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

The General Assembly:

(a) Decides that representatives from non-governmental organizations accredited to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" may make statements in its Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole;

(b) Also decides that, given the availability of time, a limited number of non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may also make statements in the debate in the plenary of the special session provided neither that their application for consultative status with the Council has been rejected nor that their consultative status with the Council has been withdrawn or suspended, and that non-governmental organizations should be

* E/CN.6/2000/PC.1.

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requested to select spokespersons among themselves and provide the list thereof to the President of the General Assembly through the Secretariat; and further decides to request the President of the Assembly to present the list of selected non-governmental organizations to Member States in a timely manner for approval and to ensure that such selection is made on an equal and transparent basis, taking into account the geographical representation and diversity of non-governmental organizations;

(c) Decides that the above arrangements concerning participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session of the General Assembly will in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the Assembly.

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**Third session**
3-17 March 2000
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
**Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

**Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee**

## Arrangements regarding accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

The Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" recommends to the Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

The General Assembly, recalling its resolution 54/142 of 17 December 1999 which the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" at its second session, recommended for its adoption through the Economic and Social Council, in Council resolution 1999/50 of 29 July 1999:

(a) Decides to reconsider the question of accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" pursuant to Assembly resolution 54/142;

* E/CN.6/2000/PC.1.

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(b) Also decides that those interested non-governmental organizations that neither are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, nor were accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women and its preparatory process, may participate in the special session, that these non-governmental organizations should submit their application for accreditation to a committee composed of the Bureau of the preparatory committee and the Secretariat by 5 April 2000, and that the application should contain the following information:

(i) The purpose of the organization;

(ii) Information identifying the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the subject of the special session and indicating in which country or countries they are carried out;

(iii) Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international levels;

(iv) Copies of annual or other reports of the organization, with financial statements and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions;

(v) A list of the members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality;

(vi) A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution;

(vii) A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization;

and further decides that the Bureau of the preparatory committee should submit by 10 April 2000 to the members of the preparatory committee a list of the non-governmental organizations that submitted their applications, for approval, that the list should contain information on each organization's competence and relevance to the subject of the special session, and that members of the preparatory committee will have until 10 May 2000 to decide on a no-objection basis regarding accreditation of these non-governmental organizations;

(c) Decides that those non-governmental organizations whose applications for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council was rejected or whose consultative status with the Council was withdrawn or suspended shall not be accredited to the special session;

(d) Urges, in recognition of the importance of equitable geographical participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session, relevant United Nations bodies to assist those non-governmental organizations that do not have resources, in particular non-governmental organizations from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in participating in the special session;

(e) Requests the Secretary-General to disseminate widely to the community of non-governmental organizations all available information on accreditation procedures as well as information on supportive measures for participation in the special session;

(f) Decides that the above arrangements concerning accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the special session of the General Assembly will in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the Assembly.

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**Third session**
3-17 March 2000
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
**Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

## Draft political declaration submitted by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee

We, the Governments participating in the special session of the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to the goals and objectives contained in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000 as the culmination of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1976 to 1985;

2. *Reaffirm* our commitment to the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action, which are women and poverty; education and the training of women; women and health; violence against women; women and armed conflict; women and the economy; women in power and decision making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights of women; women and the media; women and the environment; and the girl child, and call for the implementation of the Agreed Conclusions and resolutions on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women since the thirty-ninth session of the Commission;

3. *Recognize* that we have primary responsibility for the full implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action and all the relevant commitments for the advancement of women, and, in this connection, call for

* E/CN.6/2000/PC/1.

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continued international cooperation [Australia, with addition by the Holy See and the United States of America: **including through** [Norway: **enhanced**] **development cooperation and the fulfilment of internationally agreed commitments for overall** [G-77 and China: **official**] **development assistance**] [G-77 and China insert: **including the fulfilment of internationally agreed targets for financial assistance**] [USA: **including the fulfilment of internationally agreed commitments for overall** [G-77 and China: **official**] **development assistance**] [G-77 and China: **and, in this regard, express our grave concern for the continuous decline of official development assistance and call for the immediate reversal of this decline**] [Australia, with addition by the Holy See: **including through** [Norway: **enhanced**] **development cooperation and the fulfilment of commitments** [USA: **made to official development assistance**]] [Australia, alternative 1: **including through enhanced development cooperation and by striving to achieve the fulfilment of international targets, where agreed, as soon as possible**] [Australia, alternative 2: **including by striving to achieve the internationally agreed target for official development assistance as soon as possible**] [G-77 and China: **including striving for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for overall official development assistance as soon as possible, as well as increasing the share of funding for activities designed to implement the Platform for Action**];

4. *Welcome* progress made [G-77 and China and the Holy See: **thus far**] [G-77 and China: **towards the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action**] towards gender equality, [Holy See: **including the extensive ratification of international human rights instruments**] [USA insert: **including extensive ratification** [Mexico: **and full implementation**] **of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**] [Mexico: **and other instruments of human rights law**] [Holy See: **and recognition of the equal rights and inherent human dignity of women and men and other purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**] and in this regard acknowledge the efforts at all levels of Government and of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and other international and regional organizations, and urge continued efforts for the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

5. *Recognize* the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, and encourage their participation in further implementation and assessment processes;

5 *bis*. *Emphasize* that men must involve themselves and take joint responsibility with women for the promotion of gender equality;

*5 ter*. *Reaffirm* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the process of implementation of the outcome of other major United Nations conferences [European Union insert: **and the need for integrated and coordinated follow-up**] [G-77 and China insert: **by the relevant bodies within the United Nations system**].

We, the Governments, at the beginning of the new millennium,

6. *Reaffirm* our commitment to overcoming obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and to strengthen and safeguard a national and international enabling environment, and to this end pledge to undertake further action to ensure its full and accelerated implementation, including through the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes and promoting women's full participation and empowerment and enhanced international cooperation for the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

7. *Agree* to regularly assess further implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action with a view to bringing together all parties involved in 2005 to assess progress and consider new initiatives, as appropriate, 10 years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action and 20 years after the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies;

8. *Pledge* to ensure the realization of societies in which both women and men work together towards a world where every individual can enjoy equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century.